

Message Text

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14-11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 SCCT-01 IO-10 /070 W
----- 023632

R 020737Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2510

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, SY, IZ
SUBJ: ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF BAATH PARTY NATIONAL
COMMAND MEMBER: ARMED CLASHES IN DAMASCUS

1. DAMASCUS PRESS JUNE 29 PUBLISHED STATEMENT OF BAATH PARTY
NATIONAL COMMAND CONDEMNING ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF NATIONAL
COMMAND MEMBER AHMED AL-IZZAWI ON JUNE 26 BY IRAQI AGENTS.
ACCORDING TO STATEMENT, BOMB WAS ATTACHED TO DOOR HANDLE OF IZZAWI'S
CAR AND EXPLODED WHEN HE OPENED IT, INJURING HIM SEVERELY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM LOCAL SOURCE THAT IZZAWI IS FORMER HIGH-
RANKING IRAQI MILITARY OFFICER CURRENTLY LIVING IN EXILE IN
DAMASCUS AND IS PRINCIPAL IRAQI REPRESENTATIVE ON (SYRIAN)
BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND.

3. ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT HAS BROUGHT IN ITS WAKE RENEWED DAILY
CONDEMNATION OF IRAQI REGIME IN SYRIAN PRESS.

4. ARMED CLASHES. RECENT DAYS HAVE SEEN FLURRY OF RUMORS RE
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SEVERAL ARMED CLASHES WITH DAMASCUS SECURITY FORCES. TWO OF

THESE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED CLASHES WITH REJECTIONIST GROUPS,
POSSIBLY PFLP COMMANDOS, IN DAMASCUS SUBURBS; THE THIRD WAS
A SECTARIAN CLASH FOLLOWING SUNNI WEDDING IN BARZE VILLAGE
NORTH OF DAMASCUS.

5. COMMENT: WE HAVE MORE THAN ONE SOURCE FOR EACH OF THESE
REPORTED CLASHES. WHILE PRECISE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH ONE
ARE UNCERTAIN, THEY REFLECT RAISING OF TENSION RESULTING
FROM REVIVAL OF REJECTIONIST FRONT PLUS CONTINUING BILATERAL
POLITICAL DISPUTE WITH IRAQ AND INTENSIFIED LEBANESE
DISTURBANCES.

MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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Disposition Reason:
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